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Monthly Review of EMPLOYMENT OUTLOOK, LABOR SUPPLY, LABOR DEMAND, CURRENT EMPLOYMENT

MONTANA STATE EMPLOYMENT SERVICE WERSITY OF MONTANA

Division of Unemployment Compensation Commission of Montana 27517 OF MONTANA

Edgar H. Reeder, Chairman

James J. Flaherty, Commissioner UCC Building-P.O. Box 1728-Helena, Montana

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HELENA INDEPENDENT RECORD

SEPTEMBER, 1967

Some Grey Among the Blue in August Job Picture

The Two Sides of August—There was both a credit and a debit side to the August labor market picture. The brighter aspects reflected stabilized high employment levels in the majority of industry groups. Tourism, the back-to-school buying season, and good yields from fruit and grain harvests kept the volume of main street business at a good pace. The whir of activity at logging camps and sawmills in the timbered areas continued after being temporarily stilled by closure of forest lands because of fire hazards. Employment on construction projects increased by 700 workers from July to August this year. Oil exploration and drilling operations began to show signs of greater activity as the month ended. Clouding the employment scene were the deepening shadows of the copper industry strike now into the third month. Prospects for early settlement of this dispute still appear dim. More than \$10 million in wages have been lost by the striking workers since the strike began on July 15. The loss to the State of Montana in personal state income taxes is projected \$293,340 for every 6½ week period of the strike. The striking workers are barred by Montana law from receiving unemployment compensation benefits. Workers laid off from their jobs in trade, service, and other firms because of weakened economic conditions caused by the strike are generally determined eligible for jobless pay benefits. Unemployment claims filed by idled workers in this latter category so far have not been too noticeable. From August 4 through

September 8, 1967, a total of 175 such claim payments were made totaling \$5,674.00. Secondary unemployment as a result of the strike is now starting to edge up at a faster pace than in earlier

Non-Farm Employment Down 6,400 From July—The adverse influence of the copper strike was the chief factor in the 6,400 employment decline from July to August this year. A total of 189,300 non-farm wage earners remained on August payrolls, 6,900 fewer than the same month last year. Economic trends earlier this year and prior to the copper strike pointed to the possibility of an industrial employment peak of 200,000 this year. Employment for the first five months of this year exceeded job totals of comparable months of all past years. Employment levels during June and July this year fell just slightly short of year ago totals for the same months. The final employment figure of 195,700 on non-farm payrolls this July should stand as the job peak for this year. The continuing copper strike plus the soon to start seasonal declines in other industries leave little promise for a higher figure.

August Jobseekers Totaled 9,056-More than 9,000 jobseekers were registered for work at the 23 local offices of the Montana State Employment Service during August. The total was up nearly 2,200 from last year. More than 40 per cent of the current total were registered at Anaconda, Butte, and Great Falls where the copper strike is in effect.

August UCC Checks Came to \$208,332 -The \$208,332 paid in jobless benefits to eligible, unemployed workers this August compares with a \$155,069 total for the same month last year. UCC payments from January through August this year amounted to \$4,638,834, up \$376,372 from the comparable period a year ago. During August 1967, unemployed workers in Cascade County received \$38,585 in jobless pay, followed by \$32,058 in Yellowstone County, and \$30,004 in Silver Bow County. There were claimants in all other counties except Carter, Garfield, Liberty, and Toole. At the end of August, the Mon-tana UCC Trust Fund contained \$21,-357,563.

Some Worker Shortages In Evidence Replacement hiring to fill vacancies left by students returning to schools and colleges began in earnest in late August. Shortages of cooks, waitresses and maids developed in some areas including Bozeman, Libby, and Polson. Loggers and woods equipment operaters were in short supply in some timbered sections of the state. Yellowstone Park needed more workers to finish up the season.

Farm Front Active-Several thousand workers were kept busy in the grain, cherry, and sweet corn harvests, all now completed. Good over-all yields were reported from all fields and orchards. The potato harvest will begin late in September, giving temporary employment to several hundred work-

LABOR TURNOVER RATES IN MANUFACTURING AND MINING INDUSTRIES

(per 100 employees)

(Compiled in cooperation with U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics)

		ACC	CESSI	ON RA	ATE		SEPARATION RATE								
INDUSTRY	Total			New Hire			Total			Quit			Layoff		
	July 1967	June 1967	July 1966	July 1967	June 1967	July 1966	July 1967	June 1967	July 1966	July 1967	June 1967	July 1966	July 1967	June 1967	July 1966
All Manufacturing Durable Goods Primary Metal Nondurable Goods	4.9 4.9 2.1 5.0	8.2 8.9 12.3 6.7	4.6 4.5 5.7 4.8	4.3 4.5 1.5 4.0	7.4 7.9 9.6 6.3	4.1 4.0 4.5 4.4	3.9 4.6 3.3 2.2	5.3 5.5 4.4 4.8	4.9 5.9 4.8 2.7	2.4 2.7 2.2 1.8	3.3 3.7 3.2 2.5	3.4 4.0 2.0 2.1	.4 .6 .8 .2	1.0 .6 .7 1.8	.3 .3 *
All Mining Metal Mining	4.2 2.6	8.6 9.0	5.2 5.4	3.0	4.1 3.1	3.0 2.4	3.4 3.4	5.4 6.3	6.0 5.9	1.7 1.5	3.9 4.5	3.0 3.5	.2 .1	.1	.5

^{*}Less than .05



Along the Hiring Line-Field Summary for August

ANACONDA, Deer Lodge, Philipsburg—The continuing copper strike clouds local employment scene. Some layoffs occurring in trade and service industries. Other main street workers are on short work weeks. Several hundred idled workers were placed on forest fires and in farm work

BILLINGS, Columbus, Hardin, Laurel. Red Lodge, Roundup—A good agenda of building and remodeling projects da of building and remodeling projects in progress including a shopping center, newspaper plant, and expansion of sugar refinery. Highway construction employment down one third from year ago, due to lack of new projects and right-of-way difficulties. Employment in trade and manufacturing firms holds to good seasonal levels. Grain crops produced excellent yields. Agricultural job placements totaled 1,200 workers.

BOZEMAN, Ennis, Three Forks, Trident-Good volume of employment being maintained in all industry groups.
All construction work on schedule.
Work began on \$196,000 auto agency building. Lumber mill employment at capacity; some shortages of woods workers continue. Main street activity will keep brisk as 6,000 returning col-lege students will offset declining tourist trade.

BUTTE, Virginia City, Whitehall-Idled miners and smeltermen wait patiently for word which will send them back to work. Little progress toward settlement in evidence as the strike enters into the third month. Some secondary unemployment now starting to develop with layoffs noted in trade and service industries, and the furlough of some salaried personnel of the mining industry.

CUT BANK-Forest fire control and forest service activities were in the limelight during August. A fair amount of building and highway construction was in evidence. Good seasonal job trends covered trade, service, and ag-

ricultural industries.
DILLON—Construction employment at good level despite strike by carpenters. Several projects completed including Lima school building and 51/2 mile highway section. Mining and mill trends looking up with installation of new equipment. Good farm labor de-mand with 155 job placements during August.

GLASGOW, Fort Peck, Malta, Opheim-Employment in area at high seasonal levels during August; most avail-

MONTANA CIVILIAN WORK FORCE

(In Thousands)

				to	to
	Aug. 67	July 67	Aug. 66	Aug. 67	Aug. 67
Civilian Work Force	288.8	294.2	284.3	-5.4	4.5
Total Employment	270.6	281.2	274.6	10.6	
Total Non-agricultural					
Employment	221.3	228.0	229.2	6.7	7.9
(Non-agricultural Wage					• • • •
& Salary)	189.3	195.7	196.2	-6.4	-6.9
Total Agriculture Employment		53.2	45.4	-3.9	3.9
Labor Management Disputes		*	.1	7.6	7.5
Total Unemployment		13.0	9.6	-2.4	1.0
Percent Unemployed		4.4	3.4		-10
U.S. Unemployment Rate		4.1	3.6		
*Less than 50			0.0		
Less than 50					

able workers employed. Construction includes Fort Peck housing project. Glasgow water treatment plant, and building remodeling. Good worker demand in main street firms. Farm labor demand reduced by poor crops.

GLENDIVE, Circle, Wibaux—Economic activity in area shows little change from last year. Highway and bridge construction slowed earlier by high water now active. A new hospital the only major building project. Small grain harvest completed with near record yields.

GREAT FALLS, Choteau, Fort Benton, Stanford—The copper strike leaves its mark on local economy with buying power of 1,800 idled workers sharply reduced. August hiring was mostly for remodification of missiles, and for new shopping center soon to open. More than 300 men were recruited for forest fighting duties in other areas. Farm job placements were near the 1,700 mark mostly for grain harvest activi-

HAMILTON, Stevensville — Employment generally at good levels despite limited construction and downturn in logging activities. Hiring by forest service stepped up for fire fighting and control. Farm job placements totaled over 300 mostly for fruit and hay har-

HAVRE, Chinook, Harlem - Trade, service and private households were at the head of August hiring lines. Re-placement hiring will occur during Sep-tember as working students return to school. Other than small highway project in Harlem area, no new construc-tion in sight. Farm labor demand diminishing with completion of major harvest activities.

HELENA, Boulder, Garrison, Townsend, White Sulphur Springs—Labor

market trends continue to lag especially in the construction and trade industry groups. Building construction at low volume. Two highway projects in progress accounting for some new hiring. Farm labor demand exceeded last year, but now starting to taper off.

KALISPELL, Columbia Falls, Whitefish—Heavy demand for forest fire fighters, lumber mill, and construction workers highlighted labor market ac-tivity during August. Good upturn also noted in trade industry hiring responding to high employment in other groups. Work forces on major building projects were increased. The cherry harvest ac-counted for most of the more than 500 farm job placements.

LEWISTOWN, Harlowton, Ryegate, Winnett—Industrial job placements up 12 % from last year as job openings increased in trade, service, and manufacturing. Heavy tourist trade noted. Shortages of waitresses developed. Opening of new sawmill created 16 new jobs. Building construction at good vol-

LIBBY—Employment related to Lib-Dam projects was near the 1,600 mark. Influx of workers into the area continues and there is a surplus of heavy equipment operators, carpenters, teamsters, and laborers. Closure of forest lands due to fire hazards caused slowdown in logging. 220 men were sent to the fire lines during the month. Trade and service activity at good pace.

LIVINGSTON, Big Timber—Hiring in industry and agriculture was at good volume during August. Several building projects completed but hiring continued for other work including projects in Yellowstone Park. Some trade and service industry workers, including cooks and maids, were in short supply. Logging and lumbering was at good ca-

NINE YEARS OF MONTANA INDUSTRIAL EMPLOYMENT TOTALS BY MONTHS (in Thousands)

	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Aver.
1956	156.6	154.4	156.3	163.0	169.3	177.4	177.4	179.8	177.2	174.6	170.4	166.7	168.6
1957	156.8	155.0	156.8	161.3	166.0	172.0	174.2	174.2	170.8	167.4	163.2	159.9	164.8
1958	153.1	150.3	150.5	156.4	162.4	167.1	170.2	172.2	170.0	168.8	165.8	162.4	162.4
1959	155.3	153.2	155.9	162.2	167.5	174.0	177.5	179.2	169.9	165.6	161.5	159.4	165.1
1960	152.7	152.5	156.1	163.5	168.4	175.8	176.9	177.7	174.8	171.6	167.5	164.5	166.8
1961	156.9	154.8	156.1	160.2	165.1	173.3	176.0	178.1	176.8	172.4	169.0	166.2	167.1
1962	158.3	158.2	159.6	166.2	172.4	180.1	180.5	181.2	178.6	176.6	175.1	173.5	171.7
1963	163.9	163.0	165.0	170.2	175.1	181.0	182.3	183.8	181.5	179.7	176.6	173.6	174.6
1964	166.2	164.3	165.1	169.1	174.2	182.4	185.5	187.2	184.9	182.2	178.4	175.4	176.2
1965	167.9	167.4	168.9	174.4	179.8	188.7	189.6	192.1	189.9	188.1	185.3	183.6	181.3
1966	173.9	172.6	174.2	179.3	184.2	194.0	196.4	196.2	191.9	189.8	185.5	185.9	185.4
1967	180.4	178.2	178.2	182.5	185.8	193.8	195.7	189.3*		20010			

^{*} Preliminary Estimate-

Along the Hiring Line— Field Summary for August

pacity with persistent shortages of timber fallers and truck drivers. Farm labor demand and supply fairly well balanced.

MILES CITY, Baker, Ekalaka, Broadus, Jordan, Terry—Generally active trends covered most industry groups during August. Job gains noted both in farm and industry from same period last year. Main street business holding up well as tourist season nears end. Transient worker traffic helped relieve some workers shortages.

MISSOULA, Drummond, Arlee, Superior-Labor market activity holds to steady trends. August job placements were near the 1,100 mark with 60% of this number placed on forest fire control. Cutbacks in logging operations occurred with closure of forests because of fire danger. Main street business at good volume. Farm labor demand was mainly for hay hands.
POLSON—Over-all employment pic-

ture looks good despite some temporary slowdown in logging because of fire danger in forest lands. Log shortages could cause some mill layoffs during September. Good labor demand on main street, chiefly for food industry workers. Farm labor demand lessened with completion of fruit harvest.

SHELBY—Industry job placements declined from last month with stable employment in most industry groups and little turnover. Hiring in oil field operations not up to last year. Some construction layoffs noted. Main street trends fairly good. 117 farm job place-

ments made during August.

SIDNEY—Sparked by good grain harvests and increased construction activity, area economy shows a prosper-ous glow. An active file of but 37 jobseekers consists mainly of youth, some in the 14-15 age bracket. Main street employment at seasonal high. 164 farm

job placements set a record for August.

THOMPSON FALLS, Hot Springs—
Closure of forest areas because of fire danger idled 250 woodsmen and 100 construction workers at month's end. Most mills have stockpiled logs to keep to production schedules until logging resumes. Replacement hiring in trade and manufacturing industries will occur in September as working students

return to classes.
WOLF POINT, Plentywood, Scobey Construction and oil field work were at good volume during the month. Labor supply has been adequate to meet increased labor demand. Good demand seen for female workers next month in trade and service firms as students quit jobs to return to school. Grain and hay harvests stimulated demand for farm workers.

- (1) Estimates include all full and part-time wage and salary workers who worked or received pay during the pay period ending nearest the 15th of the month. Proprietors, firm members, personnel of the armed forces, domestic servants, and selfemployed persons are excluded.

 (2) Preliminary estimates based on return from samples of 664 selected Montana establishments.

 (3) Figures previously released have been re-
- tablishments. Figures previously released have been revised on return from 1,188 such establishments. Includes fabricated metal products, machinery except electrical, furniture, stone and clay products.

ESTIMATED EMPLOYMENT IN NON-AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES IN MONTANA (1)

(Compiled in co-operation with United States Bureau of Labor Statistics)

	E	MPLOYM	ENT	Net Change
INDUSTRY	Aug. 1967 (2)	July 1967 (3)	Aug. 1966	July '67 Aug. '66 to Against Aug. '67 Aug. '67
NON-AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES	189,300	195,700	196,200	-6,400 -6,900
Manufacturing	22,100	25,200	25,100	-3,100 -3,000
Durable goods	14,000	17,000	17,000	_3,000 _3,000
Lumber and timber products *Primary metals Other (4)	10,400 1,300 2,300	10,200 4,500 2,300	10,600 4,300 2,100	$ \begin{array}{c ccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$
Nondurable goods	8,100	8,200	8,100	100 00
Food and kindred products Printing and publishing Petroleum refining Other (5)	4,300 1,700 1,100 1,000	4,300 1,700 1,100 1,100	4,300 1,700 1,100 1,000	00 00 00 00 00 00 -100 00
Mining *Metal mining Coal, quarrying and nonmetallic Petroleum-natural gas production	3, 100 900 800 1,400	6,809 4,600 800 1,400	7,600 5,000 1,100 1,500	-3,700 -4,500 -3,700 -4,100 00 - 300 00 - 100
Contract Construction Contractors, building construction Contractors, other than building Contractors, special trade	12,900 3,400 5,500 4,000	12,200 3,400 5,100 3,700	3,900 6,200 4,500	700 —1,700 00 — 500 400 — 700 300 — 500
Transportation and utilities Interstate railroads Transportation except railroads Utilities including communication	7,600 4,200 6,400	7,600 4,200 6,400	18,600 7,900 4,300 6,400	00 — 400 00 — 300 00 — 100 00 00
Trade	46,800 9,700	46,500 9,500	45,600 9,100	300 1,200 200 600
Retail trade General merchandise and apparel Food stores Eating and drinking establishments Automotive and filling stations Retail trade not elsewhere classified	37,100 6,900 5,200 11,100 7,200 6,700	37,000 6,900 5,200 10,900 7,300 6,700	36,500 6,600 5,400 10,500 7,200 6,800	100 600 00 300 00 — 200 200 600 —100 00 00 — 100
Finance, insurance and real estate	7,500	7,500	7,300	00 200
Services and miscellaneous Hotels, rooming houses, camps, etc. Personal services Other (6)	28,400 4,800 2,200 21,400	28,500 4,900 2,200 21,400	28,700 5,200 2,300 21,200	-100 - 300 -100 - 400 00 - 100 00 200
Government Federal State and local	50,300	50,800 14,000 36,800	48,700 14,300 34,400	-500 1,600 00 - 300 -500 1,900
*Manufacturing Contract construction Transportation and utilities Trade, wholesale and retail Finance, Insurance, Real Estate Services and miscellaneous (7) Government	23,200 2,000 2,800 2,200 6,300 1,300 4,000 4,600	24,800 3,600 2,700 2,200 6,300 1,300 4,000 4,700	24,200 3,800 2,500 2,200 6,100 1,300 4,000 4,300	-1,600 -1,000 -1,300 -1,800 100 300 00 00 00 200 00 200 00 00 -100 300
Billings Area (Yellowstone County) Manufacturing Contract Construction Transportation and Utilities Trade, wholesale and retail Finance, Insurance, Real Estate Services and Miscellaneous (7) Government *Copper Strike Started 7/15/67	27,000 3,100 2,100 2,800 8,200 1,400 5,200 4,200	26,900 3,100 2,100 2,800 8,200 1,400 5,100 4,200	26,400 3,000 1,800 2,600 8,000 1,500 5,100 4,400	190 600 00 100 00 300 00 200 00 200 00 - 100 100 100 00 - 200

- (5) Includes apparel, chemicals, and miscellaneous manufacturing products.
- (6) Includes commercial trade schools, repair services and garages, miscellaneous repair services and hand trades, motion pictures, amusements and recreation,
- medical and health, law offices and pro-fessional services, non-profit membership organizations and business not otherwise
- classified.
 (7) Same as (6) above. Also includes hotels, rooming houses, camps, personal services and mining

COMPARISON OF BASIC LABOR MARKET ACTIVITIES IN AUGUST, 1967 AND AUGUST, 1966

Employment	Ne	w Job	Applica	nts	Jo	bseeker	s ln F	ile			J	Job Pla	cements				UI CI	alms*
Service	Aug.	1967	Aug	. 1966	Aug.	1967	Aug	. 1966		Aug.	1967			Ang.	1966		Wk.	8-25
Office	Tot.	Vet.	Tot.	Vet.	Tot.	Vet.	Tot.	Vet.	Ind.	Ag.	Tot.	Vet.	Ind.	Ag.	Tot.	Vet.	1967	1966
Anaconda Billings Bozeman Butte Cut Bank Dillon Glasgow Glendive Great Falls Hamilton Havre Helena Kalispell Lewistown Libby Livingston Miles City Missoula Polson Shelby Sidney Thom, Falls Wolf Point Billings YOC	232 400 35 105 63 54 771 43 62 210 291 48 116 86 731 35	20 227 49 130 7 41 12 2 154 14 11 21 76 6 3 40 10 13 23 11 14 31 14 31 13 2 14 31 14 31 14 31 14 31 14 31 31 31 31 31 31 31 31 31 31 31 31 31	156 644 272 375 44 78 77 51 928 54 42 245 373 41 47 76 69 714 69 715 46 38 256	36 226 49 127 734 17 5 223 13 7 78 85 9 10 9 235 24 26 10 16 10 14	935 1,022 1500 1,062 92 92 93 76 1.686 1.686 85 62 497 369 50 260 118 96 1.350 71 71 73 37 80 79 648	187 306 19 304 20 17 6 9 286 13 12 58 85 9 103 10 6 378 20 11 13 28 24 24 24 24 24 24 24 24 24 24 24 24 24	172 1.068 1500 761 96 155 102 82 1.255 229 585 50 	31 346 19 158 12 17 7 5 321 16 6 46 41 11 330 20 12 4 12 14 18	273 751 213 656 54 49 133 6562 195 101 441 632 72 254 166 95 1,073 271 49 88 88 88 219	22 1,208 98 11 30 156 50 57 1,700 343 483 483 524 3 51 164 79 95 167 167 169 199 199 199 199 199 199 199 199 199	295 1,959 3111 667 84 205 183 120 2,262 538 584 521 1,156 257 217 159 1,159 252 266 255 322 216 252 322 216 252 280	138 437 77 254 32 36 33 335 107 237 220 43 88 81 424 45 31 19 19 27 16	225 789 204 214 219 52 98 98 94 302 395 60 	28 1.038 107 25 86 158 77 77 77 307 276 39 42 66 212 366 156 67 88 17	253 1.827 311 229 305 210 175 137 2.348 450 586 379 702 336 131 104 443 257 418 266 38 110 358	73 545 53 71 106 38 9 366 46 83 121 123 45 31 29 134 48 516 16 16 38	92 393 38 417 411 22 23 30 377 30 106 94 18 150 165 25 26 13 20 20	44 452 266 191 26 34 23 254 79 126 22 57 17 22 156 38 14 28 15 31
TOTALS	4,689	1,170	4,772	1,270	9,056	1,956	6,887	1,566	6,491	5,821	12,312	2,856	4,665	5,698	10,363	2,166	2,172	1,734

^{*}Includes 148 claims of the Fed. U.C. Program 110 same a year ago.

AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS IN SELECTED MONTANA INDUSTRIES

(Produced in co-operation with United States Bureau of Labor Statistics) (Hours and earnings data exclude administrative and salaried personnel)

	Averag	e Weekly E	arnings	Avera	ge Weekly l	Hours	Average Hourly Earnings			
INDUSTRY	Ang (1) 1967	July (2) 1967	Aug. 1966	Aug (1) 1967	July (2) 1967	Aug. 1966	Aug (1) 1967	July (2) 1967	Aug. 1966	
All Manufacturing	123.07	118.27	118.08	39.7	38.4	40.3	3.10	3.08	2.93	
Durable Goods	121.21	115.60	116.64	39.1	37.9	40.5	3.10	3.05	2.88	
Primary Metals Nondurable Goods	* 125.86	106.25	124.74 122.45	* 41.4	35.3 39.2	40.5 39.5	* 3.04	3.01 3.19	3.08 3.10	
Food and Kindred Products	125.94	117.88	111.52	44.5	42.1	41.0	2.83	2.80	2.72	
All Mining	133.01	123.00	128.35	40.8	38.2	38.2	3.26	3.22	3.36	
Metal Mining	*	117.39	126.31	*	36.8	36.4	*	3.19	3.47	
Transportation and Utilities (except Rys.) Transportation (except railroads) Utilities and Communications	NA NA 122.59	NA NA 120.29	NA NA 117.89	NA NA 41.0	NA NA 39.7	NA NA 40.1	NA NA 2.99	NA NA 3.03	NA NA 2.94	

⁽¹⁾ Preliminary estimates. (2) Figures previously released have been revised on more complete returns. *Copper Strike Started 7/15/67

UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION COMMISSION OF MONTANA

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